

IN THE CLAIMS

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A spacer according to claim 228~~ An expandable spacer, comprising:
an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,
wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;
wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;
wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and
wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, wherein said proximal end of said tube defines a proximal end-cap, which end-cap extends outside of a volume defined by the geometry of said extended extensions.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A spacer according to claim 228~~ An expandable spacer, comprising:
an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,
wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;
wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;
wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, wherein said distal end of said tube defines a distal end-cap, which end-cap extends outside of a volume defined by the geometry of said extended extensions.

15. (Original) A spacer according to claim 13, wherein at least one of said extensions is flush with said proximal end of said tube.

16 -24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A spacer according to claim 23 An expandable spacer, comprising: an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, comprising an inner bolt, wherein said bolt has a head, which head locks against at least one end of said tube, to prevent axial expansion of said tube, wherein said head comprises at least one protrusions extending from said head toward said tube, to engage said tube.

26. (Currently Amended) A spacer according to claim 23 An expandable spacer, comprising: an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, comprising an inner bolt, wherein said bolt has a head, which head locks against at least one end of said tube, to prevent axial expansion of said tube, wherein said head comprises a flange, flared to have an outer diameter greater than an inner diameter of said tube.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) ~~A spacer according to claim 27~~ An expandable spacer, comprising:

an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, comprising an inner bolt, wherein said bolt is adapted to engage a pole element for holding said bolt during deployment of said spacer, wherein said bolt has an inner thread for engaging said pole element.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~A spacer according to claim 27~~ An expandable spacer, comprising:
an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,
wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;
wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;
wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and
wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, comprising an inner bolt, wherein said bolt is adapted to engage a pole element for holding said bolt during deployment of said spacer, wherein said bolt mechanically engages said pole element as long as a head of said bolt is constrained by said tube.

30. -31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) ~~A spacer according to claim 31~~ An expandable spacer, comprising:
an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,
wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;
wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;
wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, wherein said spacer comprises a plurality of segments, each segment defining one or more extensions that extend from said spacer; and
wherein said segments comprises at least two segment types, each segment type defining extensions that extend in different directions relative to said tube, wherein said two segment types comprises a horizontal segment defining two extensions that extend along a line and a segment defining four extensions that extend at about $\pm 45^\circ$ to said two extensions.

33-58 (Cancelled)

59. (Currently Amended) A spacer according to claim 58, An expandable spacer, comprising:
an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,
wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;
wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;
wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and
wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, wherein a trans-axial cross-section diameter of said expanded geometry varies along an axis of said expanded geometry; and
wherein said cross-section is rectangular and wherein said cross-section diameter increases along said expanded geometry axis.

60-68. (Cancelled)

69. (Currently Amended) A spacer according to claim 228, An expandable spacer, comprising:
an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, comprising a ratchet mechanism to maintain said spacer in an expanded configuration.

70.-71. (Cancelled)

72. (Currently Amended) ~~A spacer according to claim 70~~An expandable spacer, comprising:

an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, comprising at least one portion of said spacer that prevents axial contraction of said spacer, wherein said at least one portion comprises a strip that folds and forms a thickness between two opposing sides of said spacer, preventing the opposing sides from meeting.

73. (Currently Amended) A spacer according to claim 228An expandable spacer, comprising:
an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,
wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;
wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;
wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and
wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, comprising at least one protrusion on at least one of said extensions, to prevent collapsing of said extension.

74. (Currently Amended) A spacer according to claim 228An expandable spacer, comprising:
an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,
wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;
wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;
wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and
wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, comprising at least one protrusion on at least one of said extensions, to interlock said at least two extensions.

83. (Currently Amended) ~~A spacer according to claim 228~~ An expandable spacer, comprising:
an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,
wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;
wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;
wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and
wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, wherein at least one of said extensions comprises at least four legs that are coupled by an extension top.

84. (Cancelled)

85. (Currently Amended) ~~A spacer according to claim 228~~ An expandable spacer, comprising:
an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,
wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;
wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;
wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, wherein a plurality of annealed locations are provided on said spacer to assist in expansion of said spacer.

86 – 92. (Cancelled)

93. (Currently Amended) A spacer according to claim 228 An expandable spacer, comprising:
an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, wherein said spacer is formed of a combination of distinct zones of different materials.

94 – 95. (Cancelled)

96. (Currently Amended) A spacer according to claim 228 An expandable spacer, comprising:
an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other

along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, wherein said spacer comprises a super-elastic material, which is super-elastically deformed by the extension deformation.

97. (Currently Amended) A spacer according to claim 228An expandable spacer, comprising:

an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, wherein said spacer comprises a shape-memory material.

98. (Currently Amended) A spacer according to claim 228An expandable spacer, comprising:

an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, wherein said spacer is adapted to axially deform only under axial forces of over 20 Kg force.

99. (Currently Amended) A spacer according to claim 228An expandable spacer, comprising:

an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, wherein said spacer is adapted to axially deform only under axial forces of over 30 Kg force.

100. (Currently Amended) A spacer according to claim 228An expandable spacer, comprising:

an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, wherein said spacer is adapted to axially deform only under axial forces of over 50 Kg force.

101. (Currently Amended) A spacer according to claim 228An expandable spacer, comprising:

an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, wherein said spacer is adapted to axially deform only under axial forces of over 70 Kg force.

102. (Currently Amended) A spacer according to claim 228An expandable spacer, comprising:

an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, wherein said spacer is adapted to axially deform only under axial forces of over 90 Kg force.

103. (Currently Amended) A spacer according to claim 228 An expandable spacer, comprising:

an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, wherein said spacer is adapted to remain expanded in a vertebra of an active human, when placed with the tube axis perpendicular to a spine of said human.

104 -115. (Cancelled)

116. (Currently Amended) A spacer according to claim 228 An expandable spacer, comprising:

an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other

along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, wherein said spacer is coated with a bio-active coating.

117. (Original) A spacer according to claim 116, wherein said bio-active coating retards bone ingrowth.

118. (Original) A spacer according to claim 116, wherein said bio-active coating promotes bone ingrowth.

119 – 211. (Cancelled)

212. (Currently Amended) A spacer according to claim 228 An expandable spacer, comprising:

an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two axially displaced extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension, wherein the spacer is adapted, during said axial compression, to extend out said extensions to provide a diameter of between three to six times a diameter of the spacer in a non-axially compressed state.

213 – 219. (Cancelled)

220. (Previously presented) An expandable spacer, comprising:

an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein said spacer comprises at least one portion that prevents axial contraction of said spacer, the at least one portion including a pair of tabs that abut when the spacer is axially contracted or a strip that folds and forms a thickness between two opposing sides of said spacer, preventing the opposing sides from meeting.

221. (Previously presented) An expandable spacer, comprising:

an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein said spacer comprises at least one protrusion on at least one of said extensions, to prevent collapsing of said extension.

222 -225. (Cancelled)

226. (Currently Amended) A spacer according to claim 225 An expandable spacer, comprising:
an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein at least one of said extensions comprises at least three legs that are coupled by an extension top, wherein at least one of said extensions comprises at least four legs that are coupled by a extension top.

227. (Previously presented) An expandable spacer, comprising:

an axial tube having a surface provided along an initial contour, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said initial contour and define a geometry of an expanded spacer;

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis by portions of said surface situated radially inwards of said peaks in the axially compressed configuration;

wherein said spacer is adapted for support of two vertebral plates on either side of the spacer, and

wherein said spacer comprises a shape-memory material or a super-elastic material, which is super-elasticly deformed by the extension deformation.

228 -232. (Cancelled)